



COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number POL 102 A	Course Title International Relations		
Fall Semester x	Spring Semester	Summer Semester	Year 2014-2015
Name of Instructor Chad Rector			
Meeting Day, Time, and Room Number Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. - Rowley Hall, Room G207			
Final Exam Day, Time, and Room Number Friday, December 12, 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Rowley Hall, Room G207			
Office Hours, Location, Phone Tues & Fri, 10:10 - 10:50 a.m. and 1:55 - 2:35 p.m., and many other times. Ire G108.			
E-mail crector@marymount.edu http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/102			

UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

Academic Integrity

By accepting this syllabus, you pledge to uphold the principles of Academic Integrity expressed by the Marymount University Community. You agree to observe these principles yourself and to defend them against abuse by others.

Special Needs and Accommodations

Please advise the instructor of any special problems or needs at the beginning of the semester. If you seek accommodation based on disabilities, you should provide a Faculty Contact Sheet obtained through the Office of Student Access Services, located in Rowley Hall.

Access to Student Work

Copies of your work in this course including copies of any submitted papers and your portfolios may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. All work used for these purposes will be submitted anonymously.

Student Copyright Authorization

For the benefit of current and future students, work in this course may be used for educational critique, demonstrations, samples, presentations, and verification. Outside of these uses, work shall not be sold, copied, broadcast, or distributed for profit without student consent.

University Policy on Snow Closings

Snow closings are generally announced on area radio stations. For bulletins concerning Marymount snow or weather closings, call (703) 526-6888. Unless otherwise advised by radio announcement or by official bulletins on the number listed above, students are expected to report for class as near normal time as possible on days when weather conditions are adverse. Decisions as to snow closing or delayed opening are not generally made before 5:00 AM of the working day. Students are expected to attend class if the University is not officially closed.

1. BROAD PURPOSE OF COURSE

An introduction to relations between countries and in examination of the main conceptual approaches to understanding international conflict and cooperation.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course-specific objectives. After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain key recurring patterns in international politics,
2. Interpret new or ongoing political events in light of general theories of world politics, and
3. Research and write competently in preparation for upper-division coursework.

Introductory social science (SS1) objectives. After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain broad social science phenomenon including bargaining and conflict resolution, collective action and cooperation, and the use and limits of power,
2. Apply analytic concepts and broad theories to specific social phenomena, and
3. Critically engage competing explanations for change in the international system in preparation for upper-division coursework.

Global perspective (GP) objectives. In this course, students will:

1. Develop an understanding of the logic of the workings of international institutions outside of the United States,
2. Complete a series of short papers that together constitute a "global perspectives project" that demonstrates, through a combination of critical engagement with social science concepts and original research, an understanding of how societies relate to each other through international political conflict and cooperation.

3. TEACHING METHOD

Classes are a combination of lecture and discussion; student participation is a requirement. I expect you to form study groups that meet regularly. A requirement of the course is that you attend at least two one-on-ones meeting with me and at least one study-group meeting with me before the end of the semester.

I am available to meet with students in my office in Ireton Hall G108 on Tuesdays and Fridays between 10:10 and 10:50 a.m. and between 1:55 and 2:35 p.m. and on many other rotating times as well; you should feel free to come by during the T/F times without an appointment if you wish, but at other times it is generally best to make an appointment. Times and appointment slots are listed [on this calendar](#), linked to QR code on right. You must be logged in to gmail or Marymount email. Scroll to the right to see future weeks.



4. GRADING POLICY

Final course grades will be determined on a fixed scale, not on a curve. Each assignment is worth a fixed number of points, listed below; these add up to 100. Each assignment will be returned with a numerical score. Course grades will be based on the total number of points out the 100 possible, with 90-100 an A, 80-89 a B, 70-79 a C, 60-69 a D, and 59 and below an F.

Course grades will be based on a weighted average of the following:

- Three exams. 15% each, 45% total. Each exam consists of two parts: 5 short-answer identification questions worth 2% each (choose 5 out of 8) and 1 short essay question worth 5% (choose 1 out of 2). Students who miss exams will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. The exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids. Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. Exams are during the regular class time on Friday, October 10, and Friday, November 7, and on Friday, December 12, 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Four short papers. 10% each, 50% total. The specific assignments will be posted online three weeks before each due date. Papers will be at least 2 pages long, double-spaced, with standard font and margins. For the second, third, and fourth papers: the paper with the highest score will count triple and the paper with the lowest score will be dropped. Students turning in papers containing plagiarism will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. Papers will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late for the first five days after the deadline; any paper late more than five days may be turned in for up to half credit at any time before the final exam.
- Class participation. 5%. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings and apply them to contemporary issues. You may also earn extra credit for sustained contributions to discussion.

There are substantial opportunities for extra credit:

- Extra credit games. We will play several games in class over the semester. Students who are in class will receive extra credit points which can significantly improve final course grade, depending on how they do in the game. Games will not be announced ahead of time, cannot be made up, and will not be held on recognized religious holidays.
- DC events. 5% for a first event and 3% for a second. Attend an event in the DC area on any subject related to world politics, broadly defined, and write a blog post summarizing your experience. Posts must be well-written to receive credit; I will send back poorly-written posts for revisions before they are accepted. You will receive 5 extra credit points for one event and post, and 3 points for a second. All events must be completed by Friday December 5 and blog posts submitted for final approval by Saturday December 6. Blog posts are kept private by default, but we may make selected posts public by mutual agreement.

Some additional course requirements are mandatory but do not count for any points:

- Study group and one-on-one meetings. You must meet with me in my office at least twice one-on-one during the semester and at least once as part of a study group. I will provide ample opportunity for students to set times for these meetings. At these meetings, you must bring a completed assignment. I will post specifics for the assignments in advance. If the assignment is incomplete, you will need to meet with me again to complete it properly. Failure to complete any one of these assignments will result in automatic failure of the course.
 - One-on-one meeting, paper outline: an outline of a short paper you plan to write for the first paper assignment, including source references, a thesis statement, and a summary of each contributing fact and idea. These will be scheduled sometime between September 14 and 22.
 - One-on-one meeting, class notes: a complete outline of topics covered in class one day. This must be completed by October 6.
 - Group meeting, topic outline: a complete set of notes drawing on material from class and readings. This must be completed by November 3.
- Class attendance. Any student who misses 7 or more class sessions will automatically fail the course. Students will not be penalized for missing a class for a recognized religious holiday.

Papers will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late. Students who miss an exam will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. Students will not be penalized for missing a class assignment for a recognized religious holiday. The exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids.

I may, at my discretion, check any written assignments for plagiarism at any time during or after the semester, using electronic or other means. Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. By accepting this syllabus and enrolling in the course, students acknowledge that they have reviewed the University's standards of academic integrity.

I encourage students to use laptop computers or tablets to take notes in class or look up information as relevant to class discussions. Students should confine their use of electronics to class-related materials or genuine emergencies and should avoid creating distractions.

Friday, September 26, 2014, is the last day to withdraw from a class without academic record.

Friday, October 31, 2014, is the last day to withdraw from a class with a grade of W.

5. CLASS SCHEDULE

Readings should be completed before the class session under which they are listed. "Chapter" refers to a chapter in the assigned textbook. Readings outside the textbook are linked below. Listed by each class meeting day is a reading assignment. Complete the reading before the class meeting.

Part 1: Conflict

Tuesday, August 26 - Introduction and overview

Friday, August 29 - The World Wars

Reading: FLS, Chapter 1

Tuesday, September 2 - Violence and Political Objectives

Reading: Carl von Clausewitz, On War, Chapters 1-2 ([link](#))

Friday, September 5 - Preferences

Reading: FLS, Chapter 2

Tuesday, September 9 - Private information and incentives to lie

No reading assigned

Paper #1 due Thursday September 11

Friday, September 12 - Pre-emptive and preventive war

Reading: FLS, Chapter 3

Tuesday, September 16 - Nuclear weapons and the early Cold War

Readings: George Kennan, Soviet Conduct ([link](#)) and Louis Menard, Fat Man ([link](#))

Friday, September 19 - Ideology, religion, and violence

Reading: FLS, Chapter 4

Tuesday, September 23 - Balancing behavior

Paper #2 due Wednesday September 24

Friday, September 26 - International Institutions and war

Reading: FLS, Chapter 5

Tuesday, September 30 - Terrorism

Reading: FLS, Chapter 6

Friday, October 3 - Civil wars

Tuesday, October 7 - Review

Friday, October 10 - Exam #1

Part 2: Cooperation

Friday, October 17 - Climate

Reading: Garrett Hardin, Tragedy of the Commons ([link](#))

Tuesday, October 21 - Trade

Reading: start FLS, Chapter 7

Friday, October 24 - The World Trade Organization

Reading: FLS, Chapter 7

Tuesday, October 28 - Finance

Reading: FLS, Chapter 8

Paper #3 due Wednesday October 29

Friday, October 31 – Development

Reading: FLS, Chapter 10

Tuesday, November 4 - Review

Friday, November 7 - Exam #2

Part 3: Structure

Tuesday, November 11 - International organization

Friday, November 14 - International Law

Reading: FLS, Chapter 11

Tuesday, November 18 - Human rights

Reading: FLS, Chapter 12

Friday, November 21 - Nuclear proliferation

Reading: FLS, Chapter 14

Tuesday, November 25 - The United Nations system

Paper #4 due Monday December 1

Tuesday, December 2 - American foreign policy

Friday, December 5 - Review

Friday, December 12, 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Third Exam

6. REQUIRED TEXTS

The required textbook is available for purchase at the bookstore or any online retailer.

Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2013. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, Second Edition*. Norton Press. ISBN: 978-0-393-91238-8.

7. REQUIRED OR SUGGESTED READINGS OR AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

N/A